



## Col. Holland and his Bank Street Home



**216 Bank Street - Holland House**

*Continuing our series on Bank Street we offer the following article which appeared in the Suffolk New Herald on June 29, 1986. The entire Bank-Pinner-Main Street area was placed on the National Register sometime after this article was written.*

Of the then four Suffolk buildings that enjoy the distinction of being on the National Register of Historic Places, only one is privately owned-Holland House. It is also one of the few rental properties on the register.

Holland House also differs from Suffolk's other official Historic Places in what makes it historic. Riddick's Folly is probably best known for its service as a headquarters and hospital for the Union occupation forces. Glebe Church and St. John's are recognized for their age and the part they played in the "civilization" of the Virginia frontier. Holland House is interesting and worth preserving on its own merits, Holland House is recognized for its resident that the residence itself.

Col. Edward Everett Holland was born near Holland - Holland's Corner then - February 26, 1860. He remained a prominent figure in Suffolk and in the state even in national politics all his life. Holland holds the notable distinction of never having lost an election - though he was an active candidate for one position or another from 1885 until his death in 1941.

Holland's life might have been the model for the stereotypical Kentucky colonel - Holland's military title was an honorary one given to him in 1902 by Governor A.J. Montague when Holland joined the governor's staff - if he hadn't been born in Virginia. Born just before the civil war

broke out, Holland held nearly every public office between chamber of commerce president and U.S. House of Representatives including nearly every elected office in Suffolk. He was also a member of the Suffolk Christian Church, the Suffolk Elks Lodge, the Southern Society of New York, and the Sons of the American Revolution.

Holland began his education in Suffolk and moved on to Richmond College and University of Richmond where he earned a LL.B. degree. He returned to Richmond College for his LL.D. Holland was admitted to the bar in 1882.

In 1885 Holland was elected mayor of Suffolk. After one term as mayor he became the Commonwealth's Attorney for Suffolk and Nansemond County. Holland served in that post from 1887 until 1908. In 1908 he was elected to the Virginia State Senate where he served until 1911 when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Holland spend 10 years in the House. He returned to the State Senate in 1930. He served there until his death at the age of 81.

While in the State Senate Holland chaired the Committee on Public Institutions and Education. He was a member of the committees on Finance, Fish and Game, Insurance and Banking, Privileges and Elections, and General Laws.

Holland had sufficient influence that Governor Harry Flood Byrd, the legendary Virginia politician wrote him in 1928 - while Holland held no office- and asked for his support in the passage of some amendments. The letter said in part, "I know your great influence. If you would talk to some of your friends this would have a splendid effect."

While in Congress Holland served as Chairman of the Democratic County Executive Committee. He was also delegate to two national Democratic conventions.

After joining the Suffolk Christian Church in 1890 - or there about - Holland taught Sunday School and often represented the church at state and national conventions.

From 1922 to 1924 Holland was President of the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce - the first man to serve two terms in that post.

In addition to his political career, and his extensive involvement in civic and church affairs of Suffolk, Holland served as Trustee for Elon College. He was named a director of the Farmer's Bank of Nansemond in 1885 and served in that capacity until 1892. That was the year he was promoted to president of the bank in 1892 and continued in that position until he died (see our last newsletter).



Many of Holland's personal papers are housed in the Morgan Memorial Library.

Holland married Otelia Lee, a local girl, November 26, 1884. The Holland house at 216 Bank Street was built in 1885. The Holland's has two children, L. Pretlow Holland, Bessie Holland Creekmore. L. Pretlow was a practicing attorney who died in 1935, six years before his father. Bessie moved to New Orleans. Otelia Holland died in 1897.

Col. Holland married his second wife, Eunice Ensor of Omaha in 1920, when he was 60 years old.

Holland House - a two-and-a-half story Second Empire style Home- has had various careers in its 111 years of existence. It was one of the first four homes built in the Joyner Park area of Suffolk. After serving as a family residence, the house was sold to the Suffolk Elks' Lodge in 1940. During the Second World War the house was a USO club. It was one of the few places in Suffolk local girls could be seen with military men without damaging their reputation, according to some accounts. The Elks kept control of the building and used it until 1965 without making any changes in the structure.

In 1965 the house was sold to J.A. Russell and converted to a six-unit apartment house, the same use the building has today. Two of the original fire places were lost in the conversion, but the exterior of the Holland House is very much as it was at the time of Col. Holland's death - though not as it was in 1885.

Holland added to the house about 1929, and added a sunroom sometime later, so the present form of the home is somewhat larger than the original construction.

Young Properties purchased the building in 1984. Holland House was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

*SNHS note - Col. Holland is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery. there are two separate stones that bear his name. Apparently the actual burial site is up the hill beside his first wife. There is a large monument in the newer lower section of the cemetery. This monument was erected at the direction of Col. Holland's second wife.*

### ***REQUEST FOR HISTORIC ITEMS***

Are you attending a class reunion this summer or fall. Perhaps you will be cleaning out the attic at your Mother's house? If so, please remember that the Historical Society is interested in all of your old pictures, annuals or other artifacts that you may find.



*Drawing courtesy of Hanbury Evans Newill Vlattas*

## **SAVE OUR STATION COMMITTEE**

This spring, the eight-grade class of Nansemond-Suffolk Academy sent its class officers to present a \$151.50 check for helping in the renovation of the train station on North Main Street. The check was accepted by Mr. Evertt Birdsong, co-chariman of the Save Our Station (S.O.S.) Committee. The S.O.S. Committee, Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society and other interested persons, have been working for two years to renovate this facility. Architectural field investigation and design for the facility has begun. Mr. Greg Rutledge with the architectural firm of Hanbury, Evans, Newill, Vlattas & Company is the project architect. The design schedule below for the restoration was provided by Mr. Rutledge.

### *JUNE - JULY : Preliminary Services*

- Site and Building Evaluation
- Create Measured Drawings
- Develop Restoration Concepts
- Prepare Report of Findings/Solutions
- Consult with Historic Resources & VDOT

### *AUGUST - SEPTEMBER : Schematic Design*

- Define/Refine Building Program
- Analyze Options for Roof
- Develop Plans to 35% Complete
- Prepare Preliminary Cost Estimate
- Consult with Historic Resources & VDOT

### *SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER : Design Development*

- Develop Plans to 90% Complete
- Prepare Specifications
- Refine Cost Estimate
- Consult with Historic Resources & VDOT

### *OCTOBER-NOVEMBER : Construction Documents*

- Finalize Plans and Specifications
- Prepare Final Cost Estimate
- Obtain approvals from Historic Resources & VDOT
- Documents Complete & ready to Bid

### *DECEMBER - Advertise Bids*



## LETTERS OF INTEREST

March 21, 1998

Dear Mayor Underwood:

Although I am not now a resident of Suffolk, my family will very likely live there in the near future. Why? Because of your wonderful efforts to bring your city back to life as a city, and not as a theme park (like the city of my present residence). My husband and I have followed with great interest the attention given first to the train station and now to Downtown Suffolk Initiatives.

I write to encourage you to vote for the Initiative and for the splendid downtown revitalization plans of which we have read. Unfortunately, a prior engagement prevents us from attending the public hearing on March 25, and so we send this letter with our thoughts.

You have a splendid opportunity to re-make your city in a comfortable and appealing form that will entice many to live there. Howard Kunstler, a nationally known writer on urban planning, will be speaking here on the evening of your public hearing; he writes on the subject of livable communities, and it sounds to me that you are considering just the sort of things he advocates. I recommend his book to you.

As a member of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society I must also urge you to grant the Society's request for the Courthouse. They are indeed "reliable custodians of our past", and their work is of immeasurable value to the city and its surrounding region.

Very truly yours,  
Alisa Bearov Landrum

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Dear Suffolk Historical Society,

My husband Michael and I had the opportunity to attend the Historic Preservation Day on May 17, 1998 and I wanted to express our sincerest thanks for the warm and welcoming introduction to Suffolk.

For the past two years we have seriously been looking at buying a home. We have looked at (Historic) Portsmouth, (Historic) Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. We felt that all had their strong points but lacked the wealth of diversity, pride in the city's history and the architectural treasures that Suffolk showed us on Historic Preservation Day.

We feel that most cities today have torn down or destroyed what makes them unique. They have become chain store/chain restaurant cities; uninteresting and monotonous.

Your efforts are allowing Suffolk to shine in Virginia's crown. The uniqueness of the Historic District will begin to and continue to draw visitors well into the 21st century. The revitalization will bring new opportunities for all!

Michael and I want to be a part of this growth and development. We have decided that Suffolk is for us. We will continue to look for our home knowing that we will find

it in the Historic District of Suffolk. We look forward to becoming your neighbors soon.

Sincerely,  
Ilona Webb Bruner

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*The following article appeared in the Virginian-Pilot, 7-29-98.*

### SUFFOLK DOWNTOWN

#### An inviting entrance

*City investments in infrastructure pay off.*

It's doubtful that downtown Portsmouth would be humming today if the city, in recent years, hadn't put in handsome brick sidewalks, medians with banners and greenery, parking, trees and good lighting. The city made downtown once green, seem charming. Today, only a few stores remain vacant, and they may not be vacant for long.

The resurgence of downtown Norfolk was propelled by two city projects: Town Point Park and Waterside. The private World Trade Center and other tall buildings followed. Now Suffolk City Council has been presented with a plan to make downtown more inviting to private business and residents. The plan, prepared by city officials and the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society, ought to be adopted. Although it doesn't sound big, it could play a key role in the city's ongoing efforts to revitalize downtown. The plan calls for buying two dilapidated houses, both built around 1830, and finding owners to restore them. Slumped with defeat, the houses are eyesores at the entrance to downtown. They could be jewels.

The plan also calls for buying and tearing down a fish market, and fixing up a fire-scarred railroad station, possibly for use as a museum and visitors center. Add to the mix a proposed TRT bus station, shops or offices, parking and a small area once grim suddenly would seem inviting. Welcome to downtown.

Buying the two houses and the market would cost \$350,000. The historical society would contribute \$50,000, a federal grant would cover \$200,000 and the rest would come from money the city already has borrowed for infrastructure projects.

The city will look for a developer to build the commercial space. The historical society will share in the work.

Downtowns cannot be wished into good health. Businesses cannot be ordered to operate downtown. But cities can help make their downtowns the kind of places where people want to go and businesses want to operate. Suffolk is on its way to doing that.

The Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society is right in its belief that progress is abetted by saving splendid old buildings like the two houses and train station. They are a part of Suffolk's soul. An active historical society, like Suffolk's, is a blessing.



## BURNELL PAINTING PRESENTED TO NEW COURTS BUILDING



Photo courtesy of Harvey White - Suffolk News Herald

On May 14, 1998, a reception was held at the new Mills E. Godwin, Jr. Courthouse to celebrate the presentation of Robert Burnell's six original paintings purchased by and given to the City of Suffolk by BB&T. This event was hosted by the Suffolk Rotary Club and the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society. These two groups will share in the profits from the sale of the prints depicting scenes in and around Suffolk.

Three members of the Historical Society were responsible for this lovely reception. **Georgellen Monette** worked on the invitations, arranged flowers, cooked and coordinated the procurement of the tables and food, plus she attended meetings in preparation for the event. **Linda Consolvo** prepared the menu, collected recipes, contacted people to make delicious hors d'oeuvres, arranged flowers and helped with the set up and clean up. **Pam Pruden** also arranged flowers, attended meetings, donated pat'e, called others to prepare food and coordinated having the wine donated. **Diane Nelms** helped with menu planning and recipes. **Sharry Swann**, a Rotarian wife, helped with food preparation, flower arrangements and helped with the set up on the morning of the event.

We owe these women a great deal of thanks for hosting a most beautiful and successful event. It would not have happened without their hard work and attention to detail.

There were 285 invitations mailed and 197 responses. The invitation list included all current Rotary members and spouses, a designated list from The City of Suffolk and Council Members, invited guests of BB&T, and those members of the Historical Society who gave in the category above \$100.00, and the people who were the house chairman for the Candlelight Tour.

The prints are available for sale at Riddick's Folly and three frame shops, Bradshaws, The Shooting Star Gallery and N. and B. Custom Framing Gallery. The price is \$50.00 each or a set may be purchased for \$250.00. The originals are on display at the courthouse.

Thanks to all of our members who helped to make this event such a success: **Linda Consolvo, Georgellen Monette, Pam Pruden, Diane Nelms, Betsy Brothers, Wendy Hill, Barbara McPhail, Mary Lawrence Harrall, Sylvia Pond, Linda Ferguson, Sue Woodward, Nancy Ferguson, Luci Carter, Connie Taylor, Cleta Norcross, Jacque Edwards, Lynn Rose, Bert Poulson, Lila Pretlow, Sue Davis and Sharry Swann.**

## BRINGING HISTORY BACK TO MAIN STREET

On June 25th, Sue Woodward and I were honored to unveil the Old City Hall Bell. This majestic bronze bell was made by the Baltimore Bell Foundry in 1885 and was rung in 1891 in one of the two turrets in the old city hall and market. It rang every hour and half hour until the beautiful building was razed in 1962 to build a modern dime store.

We are extremely grateful to the City of Suffolk for making the arrangements to relocate this special artifact near its original home on Main Street.

Indeed the Old City Hall will be visible on Main Street again soon. Chip Wilkinson, a noted Virginia artist who grew up in Suffolk, will paint a mural of this beloved old building on the side of G.S. Hobbs' men's store.

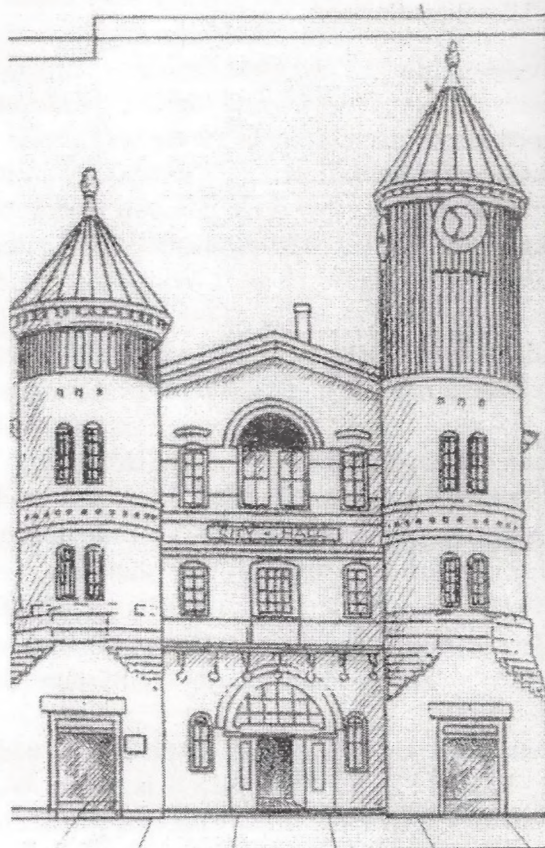
The mural should bring back memories of days gone by : flowers ready to be purchased on Memorial Day and other such occasions, will be included in the painting.

Main Street is experiencing an exciting renaissance. How wonderful and how proud it is beginning to look. Several months ago, Myles Standish told me that we would live to see downtown revitalized - that we are on a roll. Let's

keep on Rolling!

If you are interested in making a tax-exempt donation to the "Mural Fund". Please send it to the SNHS-Mural Fund.

**Betsy Brothers**





## THE TRAGEDY OF WAR

*Submitted by Catherine T. Dennis from genealogical records.*

Married in Richmond, two of Suffolk's best-known and most popular young men were married in Richmond on Saturday, June 4, 1808, an account of which we copy from last Sunday's *Dispatch*, as follows:

A double marriage took place at the residence of Rev. W.G. Starr, D.D., last night; when Kenneth B. McLead, of Suffolk, quartermaster of Company F, Fourth Regiment, was united to Miss Lillie Dennis, daughter of Mr. Rufus G. Dennis of Suffolk, and Luther W. Caulk, of Suffolk, a sergeant of Company G, Fourth Regiment, took as his bride Miss Stella Frawner, of Richmond, who captured the young sergeant's heart during a visit to Suffolk a year or two ago. Both grooms wore their regulations uniforms. Miss Dennis looked very sweet in a dress of pure white with lace trimming. Miss Frawner wore a combination costume and hat. Dr. Starr performed the ceremony in an impressive manner, the ring service being used.

Sergeant Hinton Hargrove, of Company G, conducted the preliminary arrangements for the ceremony, and he and the following relatives and friends witnessed the nuptials: W.L. McLead and Hattle S. McLead, father and sister, respectively, of the named groom; Miss Annie Dennis, sister of his bride, and Miss Fannie and Belle Burch, of Richmond, his cousins; Miss Louise Britt, of Suffolk; Miss Mollie Frawner, of Richmond, and Miss Shackerford, of Hampton, sister, and cousins, respectively, of Sergeant Caulk's bride.

The two young grooms will leave with their regiments today for Jacksonville. Mrs. McLead will return to the home of her father, in Suffolk, and Mrs. Caulk will remain with her mother, in Richmond.

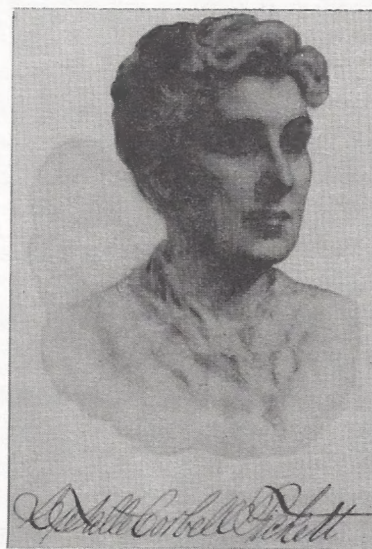
Both of the grooms were born in Suffolk in 1876, grew up as intimate playmates, nobly responded to their country's recent call for troops, and later took upon themselves the vows of matrimony at the same time. Their lives have been spent in Suffolk, where they are held in the highest esteem in social and business circles as manly young men, and they are followed by the prayers and best wishes of many relatives and friends.

Mrs. McLead has been living in Suffolk for ten years, having grown up here from girlhood to young womanhood, and is noted for her personal charms and amiable disposition. Mrs. Caulk is a comparative stranger to our people, but is considered pretty and popular by those who have met her while visiting in our town.

The McLead-Dennis nuptials were to have taken place on Tuesday, June 14, 1808, but hurried removal of this Fourth Virginia regiment from Richmond caused the ceremony to take place on the eve of the grooms departure for Florida.

May the war-cloud soon pass over, and these newly-married couples be reunited, to live long and happily together.

*Kenneth B. McLead developed double pneumonia in camp. With little medical attention there his condition worsened and he died in 1904 from consumption. He was buried in the McLead plot in Cedar Hill Cemetery in the area overlooking the railroad tracks.*



### LASALLE CORBELL PICKETT

(Mrs. General George Pickett)  
May 16, 1848 - March 22, 1931

LaSalle Corbell Pickett, widow of Confederate General George E. Pickett, was finally reunited with her husband in services held

in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery on March 21, 1998. Approximately 500 people, many in Civil War era dress, braved the cold wind and light drizzle to see Mrs. Pickett's ashes buried at the foot of the grave of her husband. The very impressive procession included a fife and drum corps, color guard, flag bearers, Corbell and Pickett family members, various officials, a horse-drawn gun carriage with Mrs. Pickett's remains, calvary, and a firing detail. Representative of three churches she had attended also participated in the procession and the service that lasted over an hour. Lynn K. Rose, representing St. John's Episcopal Church in Chuckatuck, gave the invocation.

Mrs. Pickett's ties to Chuckatuck and St. John's go back to 1848 when she was born and raised on what is now known as Cotton Farm Lane on the Chuckatuck Creek. Her family attended St. John's where her parents and other family members are buried. As part of the reinterment soil from her home place was sprinkled in her grave by family members, including Roy and Lynn Pope of Chuckatuck.

In 1863 a recently widowed Lt. Pickett met the young LaSalle at Old Point comfort. They corresponded for many years and he visited her often during the 1863 Siege of Suffolk. They were married in St. John's Church, Petersburg, on September 15, 1863, after LaSalle was slipped through enemy lines. General Pickett died in 1875. His widow died in 1931 and her request to be buried next to her husband was denied. She was buried in Abbey Mausoleum near Arlington Cemetery until the mausoleum deteriorated.



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Fan G. Panton  
Lynnette & Richard Park  
Dorothy M. Parker  
Mary Sue Parker  
Robert & Joyce Parker  
Nancy Haslett Pichel  
Irene A. Pinner  
Cheryl A. Pisani  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Pond, Jr.  
Eleanor G. Poole  
Delane W. Porter  
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin B. Poulson  
Mrs. John H. Powell  
Jerry P. Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Powell, Jr.  
S. A. Pylan  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Quayle  
George & Betty Ramsey  
Susan P. Rawls  
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Rector  
Mrs. Roy A. Richardson  
Margaret B. Riddick  
Edward Roetiger & Barbara Banze  
Marsha A. Rooks  
Anne B. Roundtree  
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Russell  
Sherwood West Sackett  
W. M. Saecker  
Ruby & Larry Santure  
Whimsey & Ellen Saunders  
Richard Savage  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Savage  
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Savage, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Shotton  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde G. Simmons  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry G. Simpson  
Holmes & Lena Small  
Mary Helen M. Small  
Mr. & Mrs. David L. Snyder  
Frances & John Stauffer  
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin M. Stow  
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Stroud, Jr.  
Mrs. Henry V. Stroupe

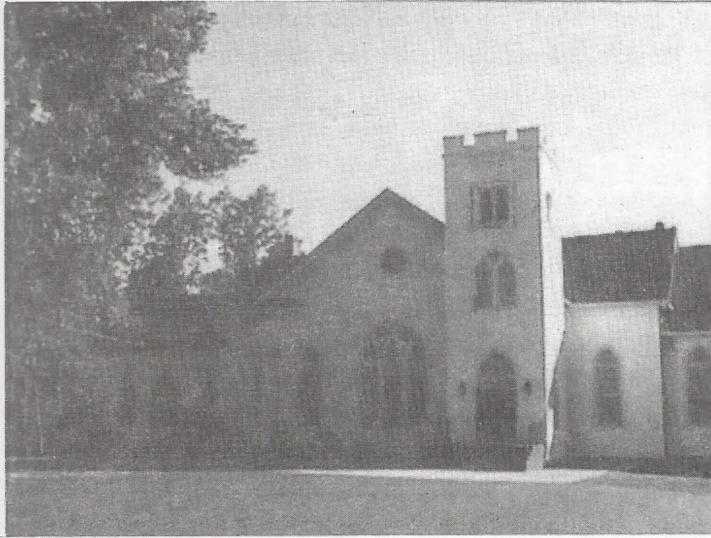
Catherine B. Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Taylor  
Voula T. Thanos  
Sid & Janice Thomas  
The Rev. & Mrs. Charles W.  
Thompson  
Gene B. Tongier  
Joyce & Bobby Trump  
Anna Goode Turner  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Turner, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. L. Carrol Umphlette  
Mr. & Mrs. George D. Underwood,  
Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Vinson  
Mrs. D. D. Wallace  
Mary Helen Walsh  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Warrington,  
Sr.  
Kimberly Oliver Welch  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. H. Wentz  
James H. Wesson, Jr.  
Mrs. J. C. West, III  
Mr. & Mrs. John H. West  
Randy H. West  
Anne P. White  
Betty S. Wilcox  
Cora M. Wilcox  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Williams, Jr.  
Thad & Nancy Williams  
Dr. & Mrs. Morgan Wilson (The Lion  
& Lioness)  
Mr. & Mrs. Burwell R. Winslow  
Henriam P. Woleben  
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest S. Womack  
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Wooldridge  
Brenda C. Wright (Shooting Star  
Gallery, Ltd.)  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wright  
Hubert H., Jr. & Christine B. Young  
(Young Properties)

## Welcolme to Our Newest Members

Virginia Hayes Hunter  
Allen & Dorothy Perrel  
William C. Copeland  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Aubrey Smith  
Joseph E. Brantley, Jr.  
Robert & Kay Gillette  
Thomas & Carol Apple  
Mary Edna Boyce  
Edward & Peggy Simmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin R. Seaman  
Ann C. Whitfield  
Annie Johnson Stamm  
Linda Howerton Harper  
Mr & Mrs Henry C. Murden  
Pete & Kaye Doughtie  
Mr & Mrs James McLemore III  
Mr & Mrs. John R. Crumpler II  
Thomas & Karen Hazelwood  
Mr & Mrs. John D. Eure  
Cathy P. Stancell  
Dr. Joe Verdirame  
Minnette Starkey  
Francis Swanney



## HOLY NECK UCC CELEBRATES 250th ANNIVERSARY



*SNHS Note: We have only recently learned of last year's anniversary celebration at Holy Neck Church. The following information is from an article that appeared in the Southern Conference News, February, 1998. Holy Neck is near the village of Holland in Old Nansemond County.*

In 1997, Holy Neck United Church of Christ, of Suffolk, VA celebrated the 250th anniversary of its organization in a year long festival.

The highlight of the celebration was held May 4, 1997, with nearly one thousand people in attendance. Dr. Rollin Russell spoke at the morning service, and the Reverend Walter Snow spoke at the afternoon service.

The entire day was given over to the emphasis of the church's past, present and future. Dr. William March, chair of the anniversary celebration, along with Shirley Eley, Bennie Felton, Evie Fowler, Jeanette Holland, and Susan Vick comprised the anniversary committee.

No one knows the exact date when religious services were first held on the spot known as Holy Neck. Tradition has maintained that Indian relics and possibly burying places are in the immediate area.

The Friends or Quakers held meetings here as early as 1672. Records indicate that in 1747, the Episcopal Anglican Church established a parish at Holy Neck and continued to worship there until the Revolutionary War, when the ministers and leaders, being Tories, fled to England.

The Rev. James O'Kelly held services at the spot as early as 1790. The Eastern Virginia Conference of the Christian Church was first established there in 1829.

In 1931, Holy Neck became a Congregational Christian Church when the Christian Churches of the South joined with the Congregational Churches of the North. In 1957, the Congregational Christian Churches merged with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches to form the United Church of Christ.

## Letter From The President

When I was elected President of the Historical Society, I felt overwhelmed with responsibility. After working closely with Betsy and Sue for 3 years, I knew what a big job I faced. At this point I started to organize my thoughts and try to decide how to manage this large group of enthusiastic members. In order to do that, I felt that it was necessary to establish a mission statement, set some goals and establish committees. Although some of these things were in place, I wanted to have it in writing for everyone to see. In past years it has been hard to get people to choose an area of interest where they could serve. I hope that by seeing these committees listed, all of you will take time to choose. Our responsibilities have expanded, and we need more people to help. Traditionally, the nine board members have shouldered the bulk of the work, but this must change. I want to have many more people involved.

The Christmas Tour has been the main focus of our fund raising efforts. We would like to continue to sponsor this tour, but it takes a tremendous amount of time and organization to get this event up and going. Preservation Day has become a new event in which we are heavily involved. Our Train Station Committee will soon be busy with the restoration. Although most of the work will be done by professionals, there will still be a need for volunteer help. We would like to expand our fund raising efforts to include special programs such as book signings and speakers, walking tours and perhaps a real estate fair featuring old homes.

Our newsletters are received by many, and they are so special. Sue does the research and writes the wonderful articles that are the focus of each letter. We would like to expand on that by having correspondents from Holland, Whalyeville, Driver, Chuckatuck, and northern Suffolk. These correspondents would submit items of interest from their area which those of us in "Old Suffolk" maybe unaware of. In that way, we would hope to expand interest and get more people involved. It is a low pressure job that doesn't require a lot of time but would be greatly appreciated. Another job connected with the newsletter is the actual mailing. It takes many hands to fold and seal the mailing, but it doesn't seem like work because we talk, laugh and usually have lunch together. It is a great opportunity to get to know people better and exchange a variety of ideas.

Last but not least, I originally became involved with the Historical Society because of my concern for the future of Suffolk High School. I could not bear to see it sit empty and slowly deteriorate with each passing day. Although the city has budgeted a small amount of money, work has not been started. With the city now moving its various offices and agencies around, the time is fast approaching for them to make a decision on how the building will be used. After meeting with city officials on many occasions, I know they will be putting agencies in the building which will support it financially. This is where we need to be vocal and involved.



If the community is to use the building for concerts and other fine arts programs, we have to make sure the auditorium and main floor are kept in tack. Dr. George Barnett has continued to stay in touch with the city on this issue, but we need a strong committee to support the efforts to save S.H.S.

I hope that all of you will take time to read over the list of goals and committees and decide where you can assist. If everyone takes one small job and gives a few hours time each year, it will take the burden off of the few members who tend to do the bulk of the work. I look forward to working with all of you and continue to hope that I can serve this wonderful organization to the best of my abilities and with your best interests in mind.

*Barbara McPhail*

## **Suffolk Nansemond Historical Society Mission Statement, Goals, Committees**

### **Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the S.N. H.S. to promote history and preservation through special projects, education, and fund raising activities.

### **GOALS**

#### **Preservation**

Train Station	Historic Properties
Courthouse	Suffolk High School
Plaques	

#### **Education**

Preservation Day	Newsletters
Publications	Walking Tours

#### **Fund Raising**

Christmas Tour	Calendars
Posters	Book Signings
Trips	Grants
Publications	Prints

### **COMMITTEES**

Grants and Trusts	Costumes
Archives	Newsletter Publicity
Tours	Ways & Means
Hospitality	Membership
Calendars	

#### **Ways & Means**

Linda Ferguson	Wendy Hill
Mary Darden	Annette Bailey
Sue Woodward	Betsy Brothers
Jennifer Birdsong	Pat Synder
Diane Nelms	Sellie Sebrell
Mary Alice Webb	

### **Newsletters**

Sue Woodward

Betsy Brothers

### **Membership**

Wendy Hill

### **Costumes**

Linda Consolvo

Myrtle Ann Mountcastle

### **Memories**

Mary Lawrence Harrell

### **Publicity**

### **Mailings**

### **Archives**

Lee King

Fan Panton

Jack Brantley

### **Hospitality**

Diane Nelms

Jennifer Birdsong

Linda Consolvo

Elizabeth Gordon

### **Adhoc:**

Save Our Station

Suffolk High School

Video & Pictorial History

Tours

Historic Calendar

### **SNHS Officers**

**1998 - 2000**

President

*Barbara McPhail - 539-1131*

1st Vice-President

*Wendy G. Hill - 934-1249*

2nd Vice-President

*Linda Ferguson - 539-4797*

Historian

*Sue Woodward - 539-3055*

Corresponding Secretary

*Mary Lawrence Harrell - 539-4796*

Recording Secretary

*Linda Consolvo - 539-4244*

Treasurer

*Sylvia Pond - 539-2131*

Assistant Treasurer

*Myrtle Ann Mountcastle - 539-2583*

Past President

*Betsy Brothers - 539-6312*



## PRESERVATION DAY

For the past two years the Historical Society has joined with the City of Suffolk to sponsor Preservation Day. We had many activities that day that were worth the time and effort it took to put the different programs together. There were a lot of people involved at many levels, and it is a shame that many of you missed this wonderful day.

The focus of the day was Suffolk 100 Years Ago. That of course involved the Spanish American War and Teddy Roosevelt. We had a wonderful exhibit at the American Legion/Senior Citizens Center which was put together by Roy Moore of the Buffalo Soldiers exhibit. John Quarstein from the Virginia War Museum spoke. The names of our ancestors who served in this war were read, and we had the great privilege of having James Foote portray Teddy Roosevelt. In addition, the Lakeland Chorus performed a wonderful selection of patriotic music. Unfortunately, the weather prohibited the Macedonia Choir and the Commonwealth Chorus from performing. The trolley tours continued all afternoon with Sue Woodward as the guide.

The real draw of the day was the old houses that were opened. The response to these homes was overwhelming. So many people are interested in seeing and perhaps purchasing these historic properties. Preservation is, after all, one of the major focuses of the Historical Society.

Preservation day takes a lot of planning and time and many people need to be thanked. Miriam and Everett Birdsong were responsible for the beautiful sign at the station. Miriam painted it and Everett had it put up and landscape around it. Sylvia Pond, Wendy Hill, Linda Consolvo, Phil McPhail, Barbara McPhail, Sarah Catherine McPhail, and Betsy Brothers cleaned in and around the Leggett Houses which were opened to tour. The City of Suffolk kindly hauled the trash away. Mary Darden and Linda Ferguson helped with the costume parade and worked as hostesses for the houses.

Jack Brantley and Wes Hill also manned the entrances to the old houses. John Pruitt had many jobs and his wife Judy contributed her time also. Tom, Sue and Thomas Woodward filled many squares and the eighth grade class at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy sold refreshments and donated the proceeds to the S.O.S. committee. There are so many others who helped make this day a success that I cannot name them all here.

Each time we are involved in this day, we learn so many things. We hope that next year more of you will participate. It is a wonderful way to get people to notice Suffolk and to gain an understanding of our rich history. Come join us next year.

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA ANNUAL ROSE SHOW

The Garden Club of Virginia's 62nd Annual Rose Show will be held on Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26, 1998 at Nansemond Suffolk Academy, 3373 Pruden Blvd., Suffolk, Virginia 23434. Sponsored by the Nansemond River Garden Club, the show will be open to the public on Friday, September 25 from 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, September, 26 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The theme, A Tasting, encourages us to experience the extraordinary beauty and scent of Virginia's finest roses just as we savor the taste and bouquet of fine wines.

For more information on horticultural division rules, registration and deadlines please contact Mrs. John C. Harrell, 721 West Riverview Drive, Suffolk, VA 23434, (757) 539-4796. For artistic division information please contact Mrs. Burwell Winslow, 536 West Riverview Drive, Suffolk, VA 23434, (757) 539-2812.

Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society



## Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please circle dues amount and print name(s) exactly as you want listed on roster.

Membership Level	Individual	Couple
Benefactor	\$200	\$300
Sponsor	\$100	\$150
Patron	\$75	\$100
Friend	\$50	\$75
Contributing Member	\$15	\$25

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return membership form and check to:**

Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society  
Post Office Box 1255  
Suffolk, Virginia 23439-1255

\*\*\*\*\*  
*The Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society is  
a non-profit tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization.*



## HATS OFF !

..to

THE CITY OF SUFFOLK for following through on downtown revitalization.

..to

THE CITY OF SUFFOLK for placing the bell from the Old City Market in the park beside the courthouse. It has come to rest near its original location.

..to

PRET PRETLOW for investing in the wonderful new clock beside his office, the former post office.

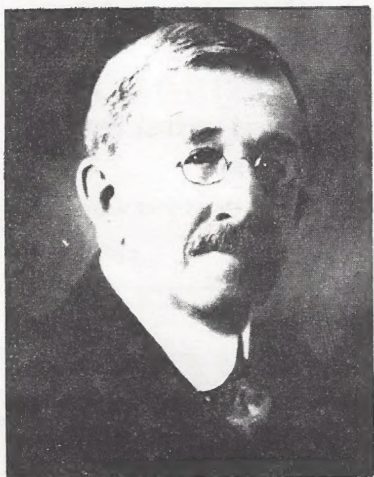
..Downtown Businesses Old & New

*Christmas Tour Weekend  
December 5 & 6 "Olde Towne"*

*Look for 1999 Calendar in Early October  
Limited Quantity*

## Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

Post Office Box 1255  
Suffolk, Virginia 23439-1255



COL. E. E. HOLLAND

## From the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources voted at the September and April meetings to place Dumpling Island Archaeological Site in Suffolk on the Virginia Landmarks Register. In The May issue of "Notes from the Castle" it is described as follows: "Situated on the Nansemond River in Suffolk, Dumpling Island is a nationally significant archaeological site dating to late woodland period (CA. A.D. 900-1607). Archaeological investigations by VDHR have documented the 14 acre site to be remarkably well preserved. Historical documentation suggests that Dumpling Island was the religious center and principal residence of the Werowance, or Head Chief, of the Nansemonds, one of the most powerful Native American groups along the James River at the time of the founding of Jamestown in 1607. The site in 1609 was also the location of one of the first armed conflicts between the English and Coastal Virginia Native Americans, serving briefly as an English outpost before its recapture by the Nansemonds.

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